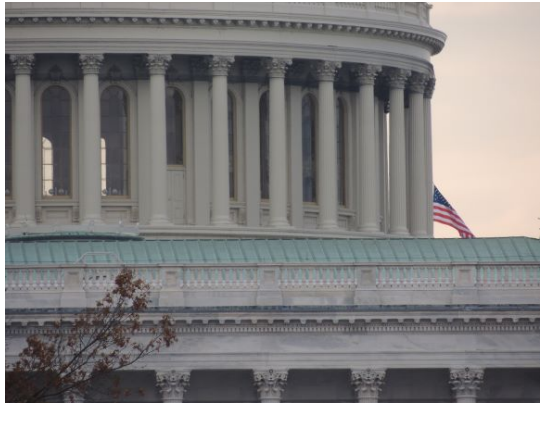




a collaborative environment to drive policy, innovate and advance emergency management

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June 9, 2023



### THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: Beware of Whiplash

This is an interesting job. One minute, we have all the time in the world and we're diligently in the lengthy process of individual pieces of legislation and building the pieces of the next DRRRA with Hill staff. Then everything comes to a screeching halt because everyone's focused on the debt ceiling. Then, like your partner in the passenger seat screaming "that's our exit" as you're 50 feet past the merge sign, the ink on the budget deal is barely dry before Ford Motor Company announces they're not just killing AM radio in electric cars, but their entire fleet. Yeesh...whiplash happens.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee addressed this very issue (AM radio, not whiplash) on Tuesday when it held a hearing on pending legislation to ensure AM radio remains available in every vehicle across the country.

Lawmakers from both sides of the aisle repeatedly emphasized the significance of AM radio in their communities, focusing on the potentially disastrous public safety implications of removing AM radio from automobiles. House Energy and Commerce Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R—WA), Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D—NJ), Telecom Subcommittee Chair Bob Latta (R—OH), and Telecom Subcommittee Ranking Member Doris Matsui (D—CA) were united in their statements and questions, all highlighting the important role that AM radio plays in their districts during emergencies, and expressing concerns about the decisions that some automakers have made to remove AM from their vehicles.

Jerry "J" Chapman, President of Woof Boom radio, testified on behalf of broadcasters and the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), answering questions from lawmakers for over two-and-a-half hours. Chapman's testimony was further bolstered by Lt. Colonel Christopher DeMaise, the Homeland Security Branch Commander for the New Jersey State Police, who testified to the irreplaceable role that AM radio plays in the nation's Emergency Alert System (EAS) during times of disaster. DeMaise worked closely with NEMA in making sure the letter we sent to Congress on Monday, signed by six other stakeholder organizations, was submitted for the Congressional Record.

While Republicans and Democrats were almost unanimously united in their defense of AM, it should be noted that handful of Republicans and Democratic Rep. Anna Eshoo (CA) expressed concerns about a legislative solution that includes a "mandate" on automakers to provide AM in cars. Despite having such a mandate, the AM Radio for Everyone Act, which would require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring automakers to include AM in every vehicle, has significant bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. If you would like to watch the entire hearing, it can be accessed [here](#).

Fortunately, we made a little progress on the issue and made some new friends in iHeartRadio and the NAB. Who knows, maybe we'll even find ways to bring them along on some emergency management legislation. Give them a little whiplash for a while!

#### Hearings Next Week

Tuesday, June 13

10am; House Homeland Security

[Future of FEMA: Agency Perspectives with Administrator Criswell](#)

Wednesday, June 14

10:30am; Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

[Business Meeting](#)

NOTE: Some emergency management and homeland security legislation is being considered.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

#### BILL INTRODUCED TO ADDRESS DHS-OIG MANAGEMENT

This week, Rep. Thompson (D—MS), Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, announced introduction of the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General Transparency Act to address years of troubling reports calling into question the quality, effectiveness, and transparency of the DHS Office of Inspector General's (OIG) oversight activities as well as its management. [H.R. 3846](#) aims to improve the management of the Office, along with the quality and transparency of its reports, by requiring it to:

- Publicly publish reports that substantiate whistleblower retaliation or allegations of misconduct, waste, fraud, abuse, or a violation of policy involving a member of the Senior Executive Service or politically appointed official of DHS.
- Report to Congress on any audits, inspections, or evaluations that have been delayed or terminated.
- Provide Congress data on the number and type of tips and complaints made to the OIG Hotline, including descriptions of actions taken by DHS to address these tips and complaints.
- Submit a report on the OIG's policies and procedures established to ensure compliance with quality standards to the Government Accountability Office so it can perform an evaluation of such report.

#### NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PARTNER WEBINARS

The National Weather Service has announced a partner's webinar on July 7, 2023, at 2:30 pm—3:45 pm (Eastern). This is an opportunity to engage directly with NWS leadership as they share strategic and programmatic updates. Issues addressed will include an NWS Leadership Update; Discussion on NWS Strategic Plan; Updates from various NWS Programs, and; Open questions and discussion with all participants.

They are using Google Meet for this webinar. The meeting link and phone number information are as follows:

- Meeting Link: <https://meet.google.com/off-fkei-rkk>
- Phone Number: ?+1 929-266-1557 PIN: ?286 252 895?#

#### CALLS MADE FOR DHS-OIG TO RESIGN

Today, Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D—MS), Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, and Rep. Glenn Ivey (D—MD), Ranking Member of the Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability Subcommittee, [sent a letter](#) to the DHS Inspector General Joseph Cuffari calling on him to immediately resign after he admitted Tuesday during [Congressional testimony](#) to a "normal practice" of deleting "business" text messages from his government-issued phone — willful and intentional acts that may constitute criminal violations of the Federal Records Act (FRA) and DHS policy.

According to a press release by Thompson, this admission is not IG Cuffari's first time being associated with the improper deletion of Federal records. He has also been accused of mishandling his office's investigation into the U.S. Secret Service for deleting text messages related to the January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol. Additionally, in his role as Inspector General, he allegedly neglected to thoroughly investigate sexual harassment claims and issued reports with significant delays and quality issues.

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

Politico: [NYC to Receive \\$105M from FEMA for Asylum Seekers](#)

FoxBusiness: [Flood Insurance Costs have Risen for More than Half of Policies](#)

Federal News Network: [After Setbacks, FEMA Aims to Complete Grant Modernization](#)

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